

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 209924

67

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 209924

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, US, PU

SUBJECT: GUINEA-BISSAU AND UN

REF: A.) CONAKRY 1633; B.) STATE 200517

1. HAVING CONSIDERED AVAILABLE EVIDENCE, DEPARTMENT DOES NOT BELIEVE GUINEA-BISSAU POSSESSES ATTRIBUTES OF INDEPENDENT STATE (REF B). CONSEQUENTLY, WE CANNOT RECOGNIZE GUINEA-BISSAU OR CONSENT TO ITS APPLICATION TO BECOME UN MEMBER STATE.

2. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES YOUR SUGGESTION US PROPOSE UN MISSION VISIT PORTUGUESE GUINEA. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT THINK IT PRACTICABLE OR IN OUR INTEREST TO DO SO AT THIS TIME. AFRICANS AT UN MOST PROBABLY WOULD REGARD WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 209924

SUSPICION AND REJECT AS OBSTRUCTIVE ANY SUCH INITIATIVE

MADE OR ENCOURAGED BY US. IT UNLIKELY THEY WOULD AGREE TO DISPATCH VISITING MISSION TO INVESTIGATE STATEHOOD OF GUINEA-BISSAU WHICH THEY MAINTAIN IS UNDISPUTABLE FACT. AFS CITE FINDINGS OF APRIL 1972 COMMITTEE OF 24 MISSION TO GUINEA-BISSAU AS DEFINITIVE UN VIEWS AND WOULD ARGUE THAT ANOTHER MISSION DUPLICATIVE. SHOULD PROPOSAL NONETHELESS BE ACCEPTED, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FIND IMPARTIAL MEMBERS. IF, AFTER VISITING PORTUGUESE GUINEA, ANY SUCH MISSION RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF GUINEA-BISSAU'S

UN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, US WOULD BE UNDER PRESSURE NOT TO REJECT.

3. IN ANY EVENT, PRECEDENTS SUGGEST PORTUGAL WOULD NOT ALLOW ANY VISITING UN MISSION WHICH ACCEPTABLE TO AFRICANS TO ENTER PORTUGUESE GUINEA. WHILE FOREIGN MINISTER PATRICIO IN 1972 SPEECH BEFORE UNGA RENEWED INVITATION TO AFRICAN NATIONS TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO VISIT AFRICAN TERRITORIES, PORTUGAL, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, HAS NOT INVITED UN BODIES CONCERNED TO VISIT TERRITORIES. PORTUGAL ANNOUNCED IN MAY 1972 IT HAD INVITED MEMBERS OF CERTAIN MISSIONS TO UN AND SPECIFIC UN SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS TO VISIT AFRICAN TERRITORIES, BUT FORMER DECLINED AND SECRETARY GENERAL REFUSED TO ALLOW LATTER BECAUSE THERE NO MANDATE FROM SC OR GA. IN JULY 1971 PORTUGUESE GAVE NOTICE THEY WOULD REFUSE TO ADMIT TO PORTUGUESE GUINEA SC MISSION INVESTIGATING BORDER INCIDENT WITH SENEGAL BECAUSE RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING MISSION ALSO CONTAINED CONDEMNATION OF PORTUGAL. IT UNLIKELY AFRICANS WOULD NOW VOTE RESOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO PORTUGUESE. KISSINGER

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